

Message Text

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TAGS: OCON, ELTN, MX

SUBJ: RAILROAD TECHNICAL SEMINAR JUNE 3-5:1975.

REF: PARSONS/YOUNG TELCON

FOR FRA-PAUL D. YOUNG

1. POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR MR. HALL'S SPEECH ARE: (A) 1974 WAS BEST YEAR IN THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL RAILROADS OF MEXICO (NDEM) ACCORDING TO NDEM OFFICIALS, WITH RESPECT TO VOLUME. TRAFFIC INCREASED 20 PERCENT OVER 1973, A STATISTIC NOT EQUALLED SINCE 1934. TOTAL FREIGHT NET TON KILOMETERS, ALL CATEGORIES, REACHED 52 MILLION METRIC TONS. IN 1975 NDEM EXPECTS 58 MILLION. (B) TRAFFIC MOVEMENT ACROSS THE BORDER HAS IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE MAY 1973 FCC EMBARGO. (C) RAILROADS HANDLE UP TO AN ESTIMATED 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL FREIGHT MOVEMENT IN MEXICO. HOWEVER, SINCE THERE ARE NO RELIABLE STATISTICS ON MOTOR TRANSPORT, THIS IS A BEST GUESS. (D) LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN MEXICO USE THE RAILROADS. MOST USE BUS TRANSPORTATION. (E) MEXICO FEELS IT IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE AAR, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO JOINT PROJECTS, MEXICAN RAILROADS FEEL THEY HAVE AN ESPECIALLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH US. CONNECTING RAILROADS - THE MISSOURI PACIFIC, SOUTHERN PACIFIC, SANTA FE AND THE TEX-MEX. AS AN EXAMPLE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC WILL BE HERE ON A COURTESY VISIT THIS WEEK. (F)

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THERE ARE GROUPS OF MEXICAN RAILROAD EMPLOYEES IN

TRAINING WITH US. RAILROADS, PRINCIPALLY THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC AND THE MISSOURI PACIFIC, FOR PERIODS OF 2-3 MONTHS. EXPENSES ARE GENERALLY PAID BY MEXICO, ALTHOUGH SOME GRANTS HAVE BEEN MADE. (G) A POTENTIAL PROBLEM REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS CONCERNING THE PURCHASE BY NDEM FROM A US. SUPPLIER OF 3,000 WORN-OUT USED BOXCARS WAS RESOLVED CALMLY. THE BOXCARS WERE RETURNED.

2. SITTING AT THE FRONT TABLE WITH MR. HALL FOR THE INAGURATION OF THE SEMINAR WILL BE (TENTATIVELY): AMBASSADOR JOVA; LUIS GOMEZ Z., GENERAL MANAGER OF BOTH THE NATIONAL RAILROADS OF MEXICO AND THE PACIFIC RAILROAD; ING. ROBERTO MENDEZ S., DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF THE NATIONAL RAILROADS OF MEXICO; FRANCISCO SANDOVAL D., DIRECTOR GENERAL OF OPERATING RAILROADS (THE CHIHUAHUA-PACIFIC, THE SONORA-BAJA CALIFORNIA, AND THE UNOD S DEL SURESTE), OF THE SECRETARIAT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION; ING. ERNESTO RIVERA U., DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RAILWAYS, SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC WORKS; AND POSSIBLY ING. GONZALO MARTINEZ C., DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SAHAGUN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

3. SR. GOMEZ Z. HAS BEEN THE GENERAL MANAGER OF NDEM SINCE MAY 7, 1973. BEFORE THAT TIME HE WAS TWICE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNION OF RAILROAD WORKERS OF THE MEXICAN REPUBLIC, AND SIMULTANEOUSLY SERVED A SIX YEAR TERM (1964-1970) AS A FEDERAL SENATOR REPRESENTING THE STATE OF AGUASCALIENTES. SINCE BECOMING GENERAL MANAGER, HE HAS UNDERTAKEN A CMPAIGN TO IMPROVE THE MORALE OF RAILROAD WORKERS, AND HAS VISITED ALMOST ALL OF THE NDEM AND PACIFIC RAILROAD OFFICES AND SHOPS. HE IS 69 YEARS OLD. IN 1966 HE VISITED THE US. FOR FIFTEEN DAYS ON A VISIT SPONSORED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

4. SR. SANDOVAL IS A CAREER RAILROAD MAN WHO WORKED HIS WAY UP FROM THE BOTTOM. HE HAS BEEN A LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER, AND WAS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NDEM IN CHARGE OF ADMINISTRATION FROM 1959-1964. HE ASSUMED HIS PRESENT JOB AS DIRECTOR GENERAL IN CHARGE OF MEXICO'S UNCLASSIFIED

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THEREE SMALLER RAILROADS ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO.

5. ING MENDEZ IS ALSO A CAREER RAILROAD MAN, HAVING BEEN WITH NDEM FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. HE HAS TWICE BEEN THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NDEM IN CHARGE OF MOTOR POWER (1959-1964; 1970-1973). HE LEFT BRIEFLY AND RETURNED WHEN SR. GOMEZ TOOK OVER AS GENERAL MANAGER. HIS DUTIES AS DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER PLACE HIM IN CHARGE

OF FIVE DEPARTMENTS - THOSE OF TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MOTOR POWER AND MAINTENANCE OF TRACKS AND STRUCTURES. HIS FATHER BENJAMIN MENDEZ WAS AN EARLIER GENERAL MANAGER OF NDEM.

6. ING. RIVERA IS THE SENIOR DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND HAS BEEN IN HIS PRESENT JOB FOR MANY YEARS. ING. MARTINEZ ASSUMED HIS JOB ON APRIL 24 THIS YEAR. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY MEXICO'S AMBASSADOR TO CHILE.

7. PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY ASAP OF MR. HALL'S ARRIVAL PLANS, SO THAT COURTESY CALLS AND PRESS CONFERENCE MAY BE ARRANGED ON MONDAY JUNE 1, 1975. INFORMATION ALSO NEEDED ON SIZE (WITH NAMES) OF PARTY SO THAT EMBASSY MAY MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS (ADVISE IF JUNIOR SUITE DESIRED FOR MR. HALL) AND ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORTATION (ADVISE IF OVERTIME AVAILABLE FOR EMBASSY DRIVER).
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